THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

November 17th—23rd, 1983
Volume 18, Number 46

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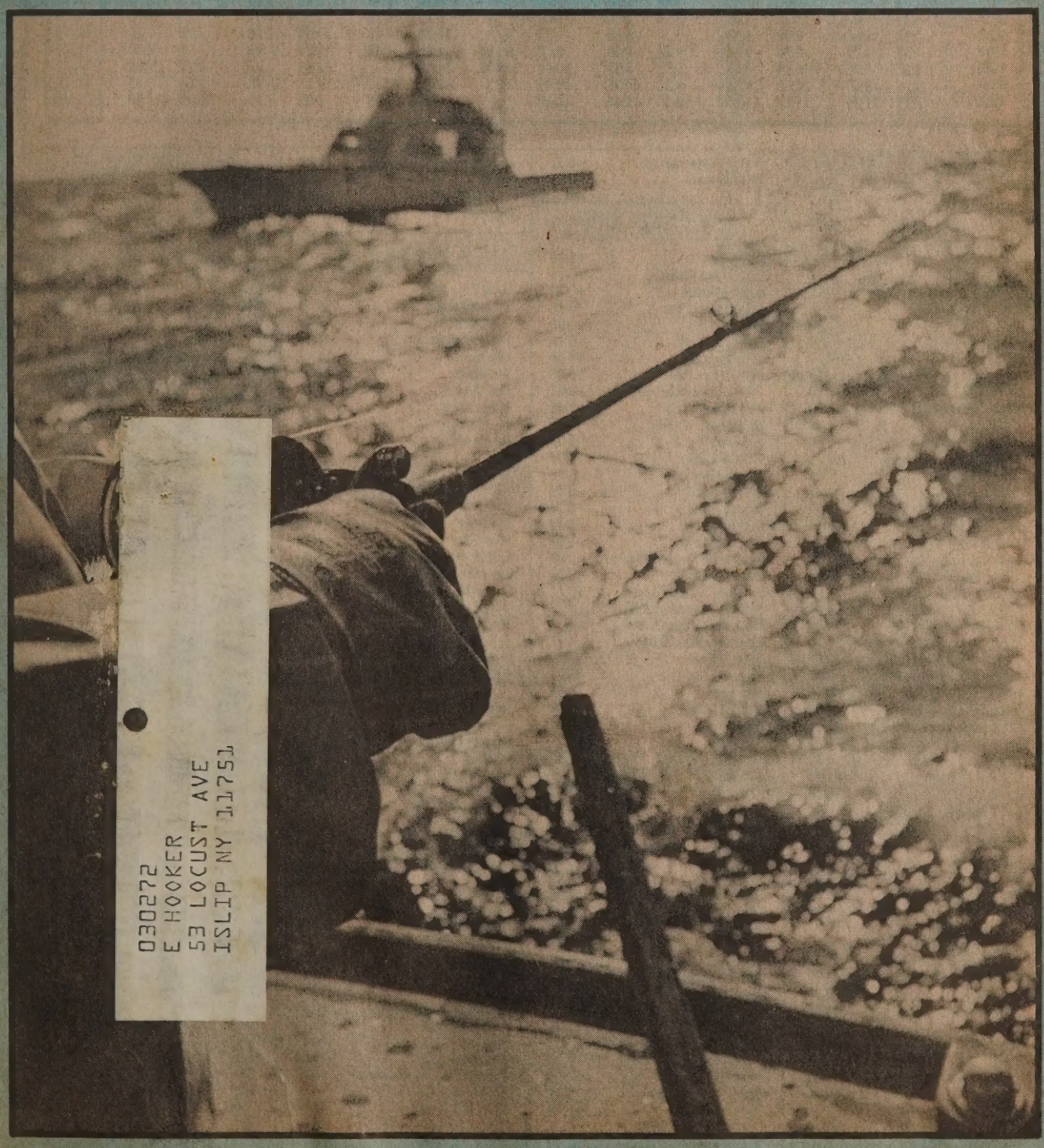

030272
E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	5:20	5:35	6:05	6:25	6:00	6:10	6:50	7:10	8:50	9:15	8:35	8:55	5:10	5:30	11/17
FRI.	6:00	6:20	6:45	7:00	6:40	6:55	7:25	7:50	9:10	9:40	9:15	9:35	5:50	6:10	11/18
SAT.	6:35	7:00	7:25	7:40	7:15	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:45	10:15	9:50	10:20	6:35	6:55	11/19
SUN.	7:15	7:40	8:00	8:20	7:50	8:10	8:40	9:10	10:20	10:55	10:35	11:00	7:15	7:35	11/20
MON.	7:55	8:20	8:40	9:00	8:25	8:50	9:20	9:55	11:05	11:40	11:15	11:45	7:55	8:20	11/21
TUES.	8:35	9:05	9:25	9:45	9:05	9:35	10:00	10:40	11:50	—	12:00	—	8:40	9:05	11/22
WED.	9:25	10:00	10:10	10:35	9:55	10:35	10:45	11:35	12:25	12:35	12:35	12:45	9:35	9:55	11/23
THURS.	10:15	11:00	11:00	11:30	10:55	11:40	11:40	—	1:15	1:25	1:25	1:40	10:20	11:50	11/24

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/17	6:52	4:38
FRI. 11/18	6:53	4:37
SAT. 11/19	6:54	4:36
SUN. 11/20	6:56	4:36
MON. 11/21	6:57	4:35
TUE. 11/22	6:58	4:34
WED. 11/23	6:59	4:33

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/17	3:24PM	3:27AM
FRI. 11/18	3:50PM	4:30AM
SAT. 11/19	4:18PM	5:36AM
SUN. 11/20	4:52PM	6:45AM
MON. 11/21	5:33PM	7:55AM
TUE. 11/22	6:23PM	9:04AM
WED. 11/23	7:22PM	10:08AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
11/4	11/12	11/20	11/27

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	8:05	1:55	8:40	2:25
Fri.	2:45	8:40	2:50	9:10
Sat.	3:25	9:30	3:40	9:55
Sun.	4:10	10:15	4:25	10:40
Mon.	4:55	11:15	5:25	11:40
Tues.	5:55	—	6:30	12:15
Wed.	7:00	12:50	7:45	1:20
Thurs.	8:05	1:55	8:40	2:25

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FEATURES:

THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE: BLACKFISH AND PASTA
by Eileen Regina 5

WHY SAVE THE SALT MARSH?
by Fred Truter 6

ASSESSING THE TUNA SITUATION
Part Two—by Al Ristori 8

WHITING FISHING: THEN AND NOW
by Matt Ahern 10

ABOUT THOSE DEADLY SWIMMERS
Part One—by John Fritz 12

GEAR UP FOR COD
by Mike Kersey 14

CONNECTING LOOPS
by Pete Barrett 16

SPINY DOGFISH: NUISANCE OR NOURISHMENT?
by Einar F. Grell 18

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ
by Fred Guardineer 20

DEPARTMENTS:

TIDE & SOLUNAR TABLES 2
PASS IT ON 4
CHUM LINES 5
FISHING REPORTS 21
FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED 32

ABOUT THE COVER:

This photo is a clear indication of the season upon us. Boatmen who have had their fill of warm weather species are now turning their sights to the "winter king" and "frostfish." Articles on both cod and whiting appear in this week's issue while the fishing reports reveal the start of south shore cod action. Cover photo by Tim Coleman.

Publisher: Richard Reina

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Contributing Editors: Pete Barrett, Tim Coleman

Director of Design: Richard S. Reina

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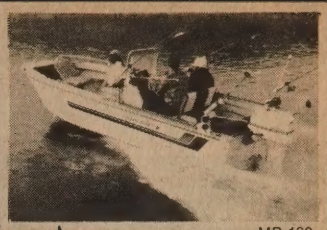
The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.75 per copy, back issues $.90. Subscriptions: 50 Issues, $16.; 100 Issues, $30. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of The Long Island Fisherman. All contributions to be returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given to these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both new and old addresses and sent to the Main Office. Allow two to four weeks for change. USPS 588-160.

STARCRAFT



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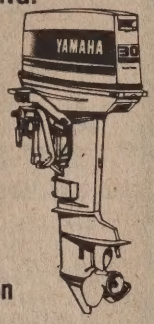

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PASS IT ON...

TRI-CLUB DERBY RESULTS

A Tri-Club Bass and Bluefish Derby was held between the Huntington Anglers, Mill River Rod and Gun Club and Harbor Anglers with weigh-in and breakfast held at Harbor Boating Club in Huntington. Results of the contest were:

First bass—Bill Collins, Jr., Huntington Anglers, 7 lbs.; 2nd bass—Frank Resta, Harbor Anglers, 5 lbs.; 1st blue—Ken Braun, Mill River Rod and Gun, 17.8 lbs.; and 2nd blue—Tom Wilenski, Mill River Rod and Gun, 16.5 lbs.

BASS BILL NOW IN EFFECT

Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Henry G. Williams reminded that the New York Striped Bass Management Bill recently signed into law by Governor Mario Cuomo took effect November 7, 1983.

Commissioner Williams said, "In implementing our new striped bass law, New York joins its Atlantic Coast neighbors in a multi-state cooperative effort to reverse the decline in the striped bass population. Given the continued downward trend of commercial landings and extremely poor 1983 Chesapeake production, our efforts to conserve both Hudson River and coastal stocks of striped bass are critical. Our environmental conservation officers will actively enforce this new law, and our fishery staff will continue their efforts to document the status of the striped bass population."

The new law imposes a 24 inch total length size limit on striped bass which are taken in the marine waters of the state. It also establishes a closed season for striped bass. No person shall take striped bass from the marine waters of New York or land stripoed bass during the period December 15 to April 15 inclusive. Marine waters are all tidal waters of the state includng the Hudson River from the Battery to the George Washington Bridge. The size limit and closed season apply to all recreational and commercial fishermen.

The law also requires that all fishermen who sell, or offer for sale, trade or barter striped bass after November 7, 1983 obtain a commercial striped bass license. Applications for such license are now available from the department's Stony Brook office. The fee for a resident license for the period November 7, 1983 to the end of the calendar year has been waived. Applications for commercial striped bas licenses for the 1984 calendar year will be available after January 1st and the fee will be $100 for state residents and $200 for non-residents. Monies from the sale of striped bass licenses will be deposited in a special account within the Conservation Fund and will be available to the department for funding marine resource programs.

New management measures for the Hudson River are also included in the striped bass law. These measures, also effective November 7, include an 18 inch total length size limit for all striped bass landed north of the George Washington Bridge and a ban on taking of striped bass from the Hudson River between the George Washington Bridge and the Troy Dam between December 1st and March 15th.

BOATING SKILLS & SEAMANSHIP

A course in Boating Safety and Seamanship will begin on Thursday evening, November 17th at 7:30PM at Edward R. Murrow High School located on Ave. L and East 16th Street in Brooklyn. The course will run for 12 weeks.

The course will be given by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-2. Subjects to be covered will include: Rules of the Road, safety, marine engines, aids to navigation, use of charts and piloting.

The course is offered free, with a nominal fee for text and materials. Upon successful completion, registrants will receive a certificate from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For. information and registration, please contact: USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-2, Public Education Officer Mitchell Pitkoff, 212-968-1751 between 4PM and 8PM.

BOATING SKILLS AND SAFETY COURSE FOR BROOKLYN

Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that once again they will render their famous public education boating skills and safety course. This is the longest and most practical 16 lesson course, as is given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons take the student from boat handling through radio communication. The last five lessons are devoted to the physical aspect, the actual plotting of courses on nautical charts. Each lesson is of two hour duration. The course will begin on February 7, 1984 and will be held at the Diamond Point Yacht Club, which is located at 1350 Paerdegat Ave., in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, NY and the lessons start at 8PM. A nominal fee will be charged for the abundance of materials as will be supplied to each student wishing same. Remember, the course is Free and those students wishing to partake in the lecture sessions only, need not pay the fee!

At the conclusion of the class, all graduating students will be given a beautiful certificate, which is supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Need more info? Call Harry Frankel, any business day 9:30 to 4:30 at 212-868-8853 or write to him at 2069 85th St., Brooklyn, NY 11214.

CHUM LINES

THANKS FOR THE MONTAUK STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH SURF FISHING DERBY

Dear Fred: Just a little note to show my appreciation to *The Long Island Fisherman* and Johnny's Tackle in Montauk for the fishing contest run this fall at Montauk. All of us who fish Montauk agreed it added a lot of fun to this fall's fishing. I feel very fortunate and most of all, extremely lucky to have taken first place in the Bass Division. There are so many good fishermen at Montauk that any contest such as this comes down to luck, as all men are equal in the eyes of fish. I've been a subscriber to The Fisherman for many years. I've always found in each issue information which adds to my knowledge and enjoyment of surf fishing. I'm always learning new things and try to put them to good use.

Thanks again, and have a happy holiday season. *Joe Bragan.*

While I won't dispute that luck certainly does play a part in the fishing game, it was more than luck that earned Joe first place in this year's Derby. Most readers who follow the weekly Surf Report know that "Joey" Bragan has developed into one of the area's top fish catchers and has done so in a relatively short time.

Competition in the Derby was intense and many fine fish, bass and blues, were taken as a result. The fact that Montauk enjoyed one of its better fall runs in recent years added to the success of the contest.

The Fisherman extends a hearty congratulations to Joe for not only nailing down first place, but for also topping that magic 50 pound mark. His trophy cow tipped the scale at Johnny's Tackle, which served as Derby headquarters, at 54 lbs. 12 oz. It earned him $300, as well as a handsome plaque.

The Fisherman and Johnny's Tackle would also like to thank the over 600 anglers who participated in the Derby and helped make it such a success. Fred Golofaro.

★ THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE ★

BLACKFISH AND PASTA

by Eileen Regina

A couple of years ago, one of our readers, Mr. Salvatore Agliano of Brooklyn (yaay!), sent Andy a nice letter that included some recipes for cooking blackfish. At that time my chubby cherub was telling about his boyhood memories of his Uncle Vito and the many ways that fish was cooked by my versatile mother-in-law to satisfy his uncle and his uncle's brother, my father-in-law. The brothers grew up on fish in the old country and truly loved it, and Andy's mom was an excellent cook wtih an exceptional touch for fish and seafood. Her two criterions were that the fish or seafood be fresh and never overcooked, two rules that will make any of us better cooks than we may or may not already be. What mom prided herself on was her sauces and gravies and the fact that her cooking never smelled or tasted "fishy." She specialized in dishes you do not see on your run-of-the-mill menus, with some foods never even sold at retail outlets. One fish that is delicious but unobtainable is our common blackfish. Commercial fishermen do not harvest them because the rocky, wreck-strewn bottom these fish are found on would do too much damage to their expensive nets. Some small, local stores do carry them from time to time, but it is a rarity, and even then the fish is not a handsome one by any means and does not lend itself well to impulse buying like some prettier fish might. At any rate, Mr. Agliano's recipe for spaghetti with blackfish sauce follows. It is truly delicious and we hope that you enjoy it as much as we do. Thanks, Sal!

BLACKFISH AND PASTA

Ingredients (Serves 4)
4 cloves garlic
1 can crushed tomatoes (28 oz.)
1/2 cup white wine
2 lbs. blackfish fillets
2 tbs. olive oil
1 can tomato paste (7 oz.)
2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 lb. spaghetti or linguine
some fresh basil, grated parmesan cheese & crushed hot pepper to taste
table salt to taste

Directions: In a large pot, heat oil and simmer garlic until lightly browned but not burned. Add crushed tomatoes and tomato paste, stirring in thoroughly before covering the pot and allowing it to simmer for one hour. Stir occasionally while simmering. Add wine. (Sal says that he uses his own homemade apple wine with good results. We do not have that luxury, so I use our own favorite table wine—Bolla Soave—it, too, is excellent at this point and a sip or two along the way makes the work a bit easier it seems!)

Now that the wine is out of the way (where were we?), sprinkle the ground pepper into the sauce. If you can, grind it fresh in a pepper mill. If not, use the freshest pepper you can; it has a better taste. Add the fish fillets, cover the pot once more and let it simmer slowly for another hour. Remove from heat and set aside while you cook the pasta.

Notice we said "pasta?" Well, everyone has different tastes, separate likes and dislikes, which is what makes the world go 'round, I guess. Some palates crave linguine only with fish and seafood; others like spaghetti or ziti instead. Andy insists on linguine, and I must agree with him on this one particular point. It just "tastes right," as he says. Anyhow, boil up whatever style of pasta you like, following instructions printed on the package to reach your favorite consistency. We like our pasta "al dente," which is slightly chewy or, literally, "to the teeth." It's all a matter of personal preference. Just make certain that the water has been slightly salted, to give that pasta a bit of flavor.

Remove the pasta and drain it thoroughly in a colander, then place it on a large platter. Pour sauce over the top, toss lightly. Arrange fillets around outside edges of platter, pour remaining sauce over fish and pasta alike, sprinkle on grated parmesan and some snipped fresh basil, and serve piping hot—immediately.

Oh, that crushed hot pepper? Well, the more adventurous among you can spinkle some over your pasta for some added zing. Be as lavish or as liberal as you dare—it's your mouth! If it's too hot to handle, cool it off with a nice, cold, tossed green salad and a glass or two of that chilled Soave wine we spoke of earlier. After a couple of glasses of the wine you'll find that your mouth doesn't burn any more! Enjoy!

WHY SAVE THE SALT MARSH?

by Fred Truter

The coastal estuaries are vital to the future of sport fishing. Here's why.

Is the salt marsh "non-productive," and useless? Should it be drained, filled in and developed for some "useful purpose?" Did nature make a "mistake" with this foul smelling reprobate area of a bygone age? Or, perhaps, man is making one of the biggest mistakes of all time by making war against this wonderfully designed, and necessary area. What is the truth about the salt marsh?

John and Mildred Teal in their book "The Life and Death of the Salt Marsh" say, "Estuaries in general and salt marshes in particular, are unusually productive places." What's this? They call the estuary and salt marshes "unusually productive places." Why? What does the U.S. Government say about the salt marsh? The United States Fish and Wildlife Service places the salt marsh as part of the estuary. Their booklet, "Estuaries: Cradles of Life" states, "Mist clinging to the marsh glows with the coming dawn. Tall grass scrapes against your boat... This is an estuary, the tidal reach of a river, where sea and stream mingle."

The cordgrasses (**Spartina alterniflora** and **Spartina patens**) along with algae are the producers of the marsh. Decomposed spartina (**detritus**) with algae—forming a detritus-algae soup (30 percent algae)—is the most abundant food of the estuary. One acre of salt marsh, on the average, produces ten tons of organic matter per year, while an acre of wheat, on the average, produces one and a half tons of organic matter per year (including leaves, stems, etc.).

In other words, one acre of salt marsh is seven times more productive than one acre of alfalfa, and two times more productive than one acre of average corn field.

Dekorte State Park in Lyndhurst,

New York skyline looms over Dekorte State Park. Can marshes exist in spite of development?

New Jersey (1,200 acres) can produce 12,000 tons of organic matter per year. The 130,000 acres of salt marsh in the state of Delaware can produce 1,300,000 tons of organic matter per year, and two lagoons in Rhode Island (less than four square miles) produce 25 percent of the flounder caught by fishermen in the entire region.

Spartina grass is adapted to live in the harsh environment of the salt marsh. Its cells contain more salts than seawater, allowing the grass to absorb vital freshwater from the less salty estuarine water by osmosis. The water moves through a porous membrane (the roots) from a less salty solution to a more salty solution, trying to make both solutions equal. What little unwanted salt is absorbed is secreted by special glands in the leaves. The mud of the salt marsh is lacking in oxygen. The gas you smell is hydrogen sulfide. The spartina, to compensate for this, has special tubes inside the plant to carry the oxygen from the leaves to the roots.

The roots also supply oxygen to animals living in the mud near the roots. The larvae of these creatures are then added to the food chain. Nitrogen-fixing blue-green algae lives on the mud. This algae helps the spartina by "fixing" the nitrogen in the air to a form that can be used by the plants as a kind of fertilizer.

Twice in a twenty-four hour period, the tides wash the detritus from the marsh, and mix it with the algae that grows in the shallow estuary. Because biological activity (animal, bacterial, etc.) on the marsh is so great, nutrients are available about as fast as they are needed. The detritus that is washed into the open water of the estuary can support twice as much animal life there as in the marsh.

This huge amount of food stays in the estuary. Because the light freshwater (from the river) and the heavy saltwater (from the ocean) circulate, they form a "nutrient trap." The abundant food from the marsh, and the warm water in the estuary, provide the perfect nursery for fishes and marine animals. It is estimated that 70 percent of commercial marine species come into the estuary to breed.

Just how much do fishermen need the salt marsh? John and Mildred Teal says, "Unless we destroy them, our most valuable fisheries will always be those associated with the marshes and estuaries," and, "The sport fishery depends upon the coastal estuaries even more than does the commercial fishery, and much more money is involved in the sport industry."

So where does that put us, the sport fishermen? We should be in the driver's seat. We need the salt marshes. Don't let the greedy take away our sport in order to put money in their own pockets. The time has come to organize on behalf of saving these precious lands. Before it is too late, we must all let our voices be heard.

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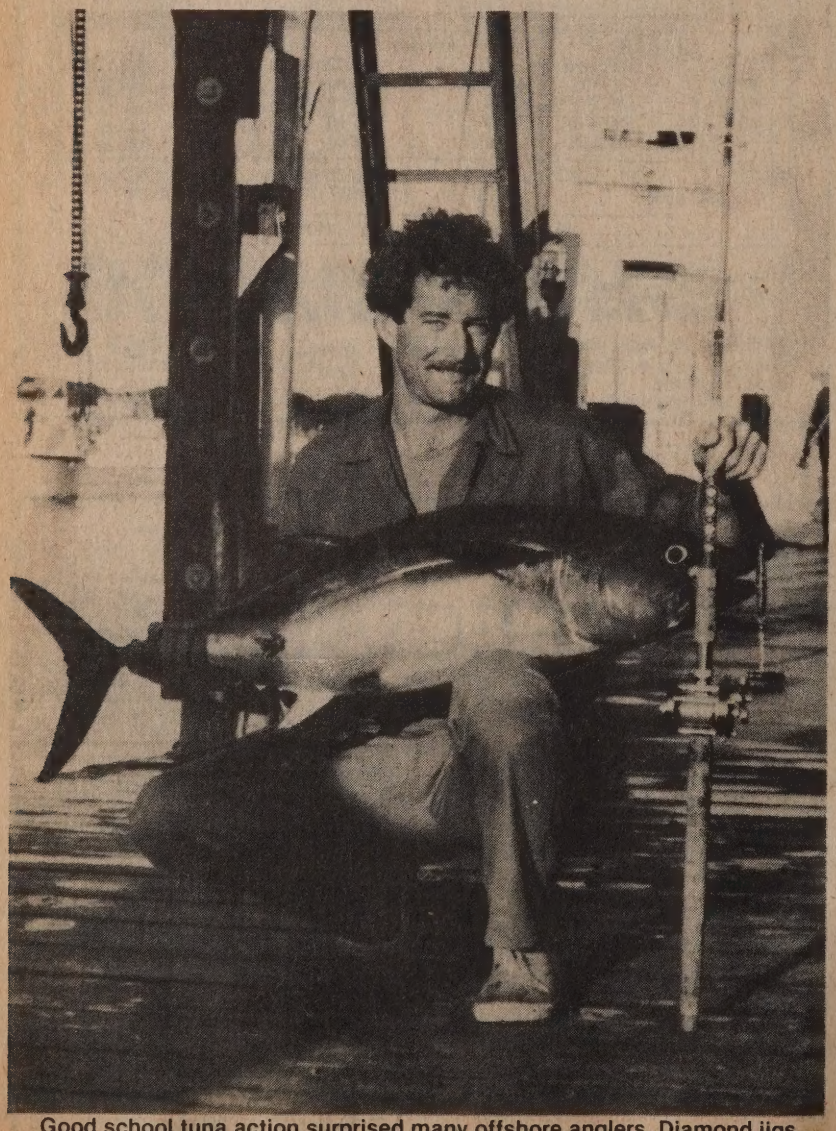
ASSESSING THE TUNA SITUATION

Part Two — *by Al Ristori*

The recent conservation effort on behalf of the bluefin tuna gets high marks as it provides an encouraging future for the fishery.

During November, tuna specialists from around the world will be gathering in Madrid to discuss the status of stocks in the Atlantic and come to agreement on various quotas and restrictions. The occasion is a meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Prior to that meeting, there was a session for the U.S. Advisory Committee in Washington. While a great deal of information came out of that event, the net result was no change in the scientific assessments and a great likelihood that we'll end up with the same—or similar quotas for next year.

As noted in the articles I did about last year's ICCAT Advisors meeting, there was considerable controversy within our ranks about the status of the bluefin stocks. While government scientists insisted that their statistical tabulations indicated very low population levels, a private group (funded by a dealer who buys purse seine giants) massaged the same figures to show a much healthier stock. The problem with trying to count unseen fish is that so many assumptions have to be made in the data base that no two statisticians seem to come up with the same answers.



Good school tuna action surprised many offshore anglers. Diamond jigs accounted for many school bluefins at Montauk.

Nevertheless, our delegation went to the ICCAT meeting last year with a strong conservation program in mind—basically, continuance of the minimal quota associated with the monitoring of the population. They arrived to find the Japanese with their own set of much more liberal population figures and the Canadians backing them. The scientists never could get together on all this and politics carried the day, with the quota being doubled.

There have been a couple of preliminary meetings among the scientists this year, and it appears that we're getting closer to an international agreement on procedures. The data base is being refined and it will be long after the ICCAT meeting before new figures will be available. Therefore, it appears that everything will remain status quo. If Japan argues for still more fish, the U.S. is likely to resist any such efforts.

A little bomb was thrown into the meeting by the revelation of results obtained from X-ray fluorescence studies of stock separation. That study is ongoing, but so far shows no movement of juvenile fish from the U.S. Coast to the East Atlantic although a three to five percent movement in the opposite direction was noted. Though this wasn't too surprising, based on tag returns, the surprise involved the report that 14 percent of large tuna caught in the Mediterranean originate in the west (East Coast or Gulf)—and 30 percent of those caught off New England originate in the Med! If this is true, it would modify our two separate stocks theory which is the basis for present ICCAT regulations. Only the western

Atlantic is involved in a quota system for bluefins, but the X-ray studies would seem to indicate that trans-Atlantic migration is more common than tagging results have demonstrated—and that stricter conservation is required in the eastern Atlantic.

I questioned the accuracy of the X-ray techniques and was told that our scientists are still studying the system. Apparently it's worked quite well in determining which rivers sea-run salmon will return to, and they think it will prove out in other species. However, they regard what they have as being very preliminary since the sampling numbers have been rather small. Indeed, there hasn't been any work done at all on the Gulf spawning stocks. As these fish are studied in greater detail we learn a little more each year. The latest wisdom is that while the largest tuna tend to be males (the opposite of most fish), there is no real difference between the sexes in growth rates.

Preliminary results of the 1983 tuna season were provided by Dave Crestin of NMFS. The last few days of the western tuna season weren't included, nor were the continuing catches of school tuna in October accounted for. Nevertheless, the general category was considerably overfished. In point of fact, there wouldn't have been any Mud Hole fishery at all if it hadn't been! The general category was assigned 650 tons, but will probably end up at about 785 tons! Some 89 tons was taken from a reserve to be assigned at the director's discretion (the rest went into the harpoon category) and the balance from the school tuna allocation for angling. The latter category is set at 139 tons, but the catch is just estimated by contracted observers. By early October that estimate was at 91 tons, but the final figure will be much higher when the October fishing is taken into account.

The breakdown of the general category prior to the final results from the west shows the handliners with 366.26 tons representing 1203 fish averaging 609 pounds. Rod and reelers accounted for 1061 giants (303.41 tons) averaging 572 pounds, and harpooners took 333 for 92.90 tons and a 558 pound average. There was also a separate harpoon category that exceeded even the additional quota provided from reserve, coming up with 397 giants for 79.64 tons and an average of only 401 pounds. In addition to the purse seine figures reported in Part I, there was an allowance for longline incidental catch, a category that remains open.

There was a great deal of comment about the handling of the season this year, with particular criticism about the move to go from one fish per day to two. Unfortunately, the regs locked that provision in if a certain amount wasn't caught by August 7. Former NMFS Northeast Director, Allen Peterson still felt that things would have worked out if we hadn't had such an exceptional run of fine late summer weather. Indeed, things would have worked out very well if so much of the quota hadn't been given to the five boats that enjoy a monopoly on the purse seine fishing. Instead of each area fighting among themselves over who gets what from the general category, they should be concentrating on taking some away from the few people who "own" a big chunk of the action. More about this after we see what actually comes out of the ICCAT meetings.

The preliminary results from the Canadian tuna fishery showed them nowhere near the sharply increased quota they fought for at last year's ICCAT meeting. They allocated 1552 giants among their various areas and only had 879 caught by early October. Prince Edward Island filled its quota of 660 fish, though this doesn't necessarily reflect good rod and reel fishing. A few years ago this fishery was restricted to rod and reel with 130 pound line, but there was lots of poaching with floating handlines. Instead of cracking down, the government made the commercial gear legal.

Other than Prince Edward, the fisheries were way off. New Brunswick came closest to the quota with 126 out of 157, while Quebec took 54 out of 83. However, Newfoundland produced only three out of a possible 50 and the Bay of Fundy and Atlantic side of Nova Scotia boated just one out of an allowance of 26. The St. Margarets Bay trap fishery has declined to the point of almost non-existence. Hundreds of tuna used to be trapped there in the spring and then fattened in huge pens for the fall slaughter. It's been declining for years and this spring took but 22 out of 401 allocated. The final area is the Gulf of St. Lawrence side of Nova Scotia. This includes the Canso Causeway fishery which has produced most of the world's biggest tuna. Only 13 out of 140 fish had been taken by early October, but the best fishing at Canso is from late October to mid-November and that figure should climb considerably.

While we had lots of problems, the overall giant tuna season this year had to get high marks, and the school tuna fishing was simply remarkable when compared to recent years. The elimination of a directed school tuna fishery by the purse seiners and of the Gulf fishery on spawning giants by the Japanese longliners has sparked hope for a real turnaround in the bluefin tuna situation. Consider that just a few years ago the Japanese were taking about 10,000 giants out of the Gulf alone, while the total giant catch this year off our coast probably won't amount to much more than 5,000 fish. The giants average a lot less than they did a few years ago, but your chances of catching one, especially in the Mid-Atlantic are much better. The conservation effort has made the difference. Let's stay with it while trying to improve the mechanics and making the distribution fairer.

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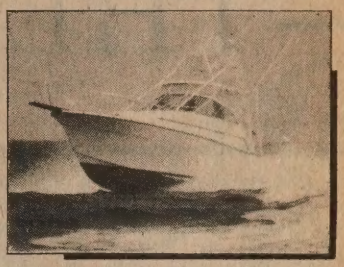

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WHITING FISHING —THEN AND NOW—

by Matt Ahern

Several months ago I spent a pleasant hour reading The Fisherman ads. This is always an enjoyable way to get up-to-the-minute information on what's happening on the local fishing scene. While doing this, my attention was drawn to the number of party boat skippers offering half-day trips for flounder, fluke, or whatever was available at the time. Now, for some sinker bouncers these half-day trips may seem like not only a good idea, but something which has only recently come into the light of day.

Not so.

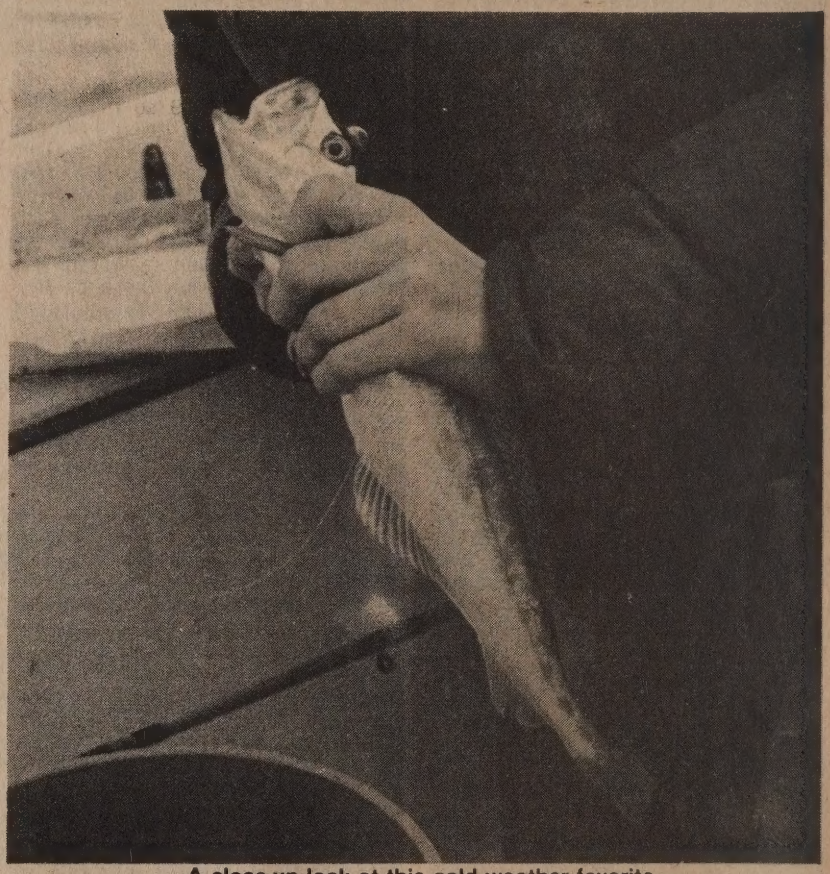
When I was a kid learning the party boat fishing ropes, there were also half-day trips. But these trips weren't for flounder, fluke, etc. They were for whiting only and only advertised in November. The party boat of my choice would leave its Sheepshead Bay dock at 7AM. We fishermen would be dunking bait in the Ambrose Lightship area an hour or so later, load up by the usual leaving time of eleven o'clock, and be back at the dock around noontime. If a fisherman couldn't fill his butter tub to brimming with fat whiting in those three hours, he wasn't trying very hard. Truly, those were the days!

The fare for this superb fishing was one dollar—kids like me, fifty cents! How could I resist? The entry fee for the pool was a quarter and nearly everyone went in. Why, with the swinging loads carried those days, a lucky sinker bouncer might nail eight or ten dollars for himself—a veritable gold mine!

During the early 30s at the height of the Depression, more and more party boat skippers went in for those half-day whiting trips. They were quite successful. But by that time I was already a mate on Canarsie's Rose R II and no longer made half-day trips.

We all know of the chaos which existed in our country during those depression-ridden days and there's no point in elaboration. But as bad as those times were for many, for a die-hard fisherman it was also the best of times. He certainly had plenty of time for fishing and when he did go, he found the fish plentiful (not only whiting); the fares were low enough so that he and his buddies could afford frequent trips; and if he won the pool, what more could he ask for?

However, enough reminiscing for now. Let's get to today's whiting fishing.



A close-up look at this cold weather favorite.

Tackle requirements are simple. Any medium-weight boat rod equipped with a conventional reel capable of holding 150 yards of good quality 30 pound test mono line will do the job. The 30 pound test mono is recommended as there's always a chance of tangling with an outsize cod when whiting fishing.

A bank style sinker is preferred; its weight depending, of course, on current strength and rate of drift. Drifting is done whenever possible as more fish are taken with this method than any other.

Whiting are voracious feeders and they will hit any type of shiny lure with a vengeance. I found the best lure to be a four ounce diamond jig flashed two to three feet off bottom. The procedure is simple: lower the jig until it strikes bottom, then reel in a few turns and begin jigging. If whiting are in your vicinity, you'll have one immediately.

Because a whiting has a large mouth filled with needle-sharp teeth capable of inflicting nasty punctures to careless fingers, it is a good idea to use long-shanked hooks when possible. A 3/0 or 4/0 Carlisle will fill the bill nicely.

Many whiting fishermen use five and six hooks, even a mackerel tree. I believe two hooks are enough and this is all I ever use. I've found that those who opt for the multiple hook rig seem either to be continuously rebaiting or sorting out tangles. At the end of the fishing day, I've always noticed that I'm not too far behind.

If you attach one hook so that it clears the sinker by 18 inches, and the second so that it is high enough to clear the first by no less than one foot, that is all you need. If ling are present and you'd like to add them to your catch, it is important that you lower the bottom hook so that the bait is on bottom. Ling will occasionally swim

off bottom when tempted, but why not make it easy for them.

The average whiting caught by local sinker bouncers weighs about a half-pound. Larger ones are caught throughout the day and your chances of doing so are great. I've never seen one, but whiting have been known to reach eight pounds. Catch a three pounder and you can brag a little.

Now we come to the part that puts the zing in whiting fishing.

Cod are the roamers of the sea and are often found with ling and whiting, therefore, the experienced fisherman is never surprised when one seizes his bait. It seems cod have replaced hake in this respect. Don't expect a cod every time you go whiting fishing; it won't happen. (I didn't catch a hake every time I fished aboard those half-day boats.)

And because of this, I don't believe it pays whiting fishermen to set their sights exclusively on cod by employing outsized baits. Doing so will cause them to miss many whiting. If there's a cod in your fishing area, it will seize your whiting bait. Should this happen, you'll find your cod caught on the top hook. I've never caught a cod on a bottom hook when whiting fishing and why this should be is beyond my knowing. But it is so.

Bait selection is no problem. When fishing aboard party boats you'll probably use either whiting strips from the previous day's fishing, or sliced skimmer. Of the two, I believe the strips are best. Not only do whiting show a preference for fish bait, it is tougher than skimmer—which makes it unnecessary to rebait so often, a plus on those cold, finger-nipping days.

Experienced fishermen slice their first whiting into three and four inch strips. Baiting up is no problem. Simply run the hook through the strip several times and allow the point to protrude. A good tip is to allow an inch or so to hang free and wiggle in the current. Whiting just can't resist. A jigging motion will add fish to the bucket when used.

Today much whiting fishing is done around the famous "Mud Hole" of giant tuna fishing days. The Ambrose Tower grounds still produce, as well as around the old Scotland Lightship area. Quite often large schools congregate in the 40 to 55 foot depths offshore of Sandy Hook's Cedar Grounds. (This is a good area to keep in mind for some hectic whiting fishing in June.)

The springtime mackerel producing grounds off Long Island's south shore often have whiting in quantity during fall. So also do the deeper areas of the Southeast Grounds. Experienced fishermen try the deep "pockets" in these areas first. It is here where cod may surprise you, especially during month's-end time.

Whiting are very accommodating: shore-bound sinker bouncers may also get in a few whacks, for these racy fish come close to shore on winter nights. This fishing, however, is a hit-or-miss proposition. One night a fisherman might become arm-weary hooking whiting after whiting the instant his bait reaches bottom. The following night may prove a first-class dud. This is because results are dependent upon the inshore movement of baitfish at any given time. There is no way to foretell this, but if the fishing has been good for several nights in a row, the chances are good for a repeat.

Coney Island's Steeplechase Pier has been a favorite whiting-fishing spot for generations of fishermen. Years ago, we kids used to catch ling here, too, and before then cod used to come in on bone-chilling winter nights. I recall my dad telling me that in the winter of 1899 so many cod came into the Coney Island surf that they were stranded on the beach, heaped up like cord wood. Local fishermen came by horse and wagon and carted them off by the ton each night before the run was over.

New Jersey's Long Branch Pier has always been a hotspot. Though I've heard nothing about it lately, I suppose it is still open during the winter whiting run. I've never fished this pier, but several of my buddies have they tell me it, too, is a hit-or-miss proposition; but when conditions are right, it offers fishing that shouldn't be missed by die-hard whiting fishermen.

I've caught whiting from the jetties at Coney Island and Far Rockaway. If you decide to try these places, it is important that you cast out as far as possible and jig the bait back as if fluke fishing. Motionless baits get few nighttime whiting. And take no chances when jetty fishing—always take a buddy along for safety's sake. (I can tell you some sad stories about this.)

As with all jetty fishing, be sure the sea is calm. Keep an eye on the incoming tide (which produces the best fishing) and always leave at the first sign of a freshening onshore wind. Take no unnecessary chances—no matter how well those fish bite. That winter sea is cold!

When conditions are right, which means a normal surf, incoming tide and schools of foraging baitfish, whiting can often be taken by walking the surf line at night. It is then when whiting chase baitfish right to the water's edge and in their frenzy often throw themselves onto the beach.

To get these stranded whiting, a good light, a fish spear or long-handled net are all that's needed. The fisherman must often race to the stranded fish before the next receding wave carries it back to sea. It often takes some fancy footwork to succeed, but it is exhilarating sport, one which will quickly warm you. I'll tell you one thing: this is a sport for the youngsters...Old Matt has long since given up chasing stranded whiting on January nights.

I've told you how to catch whiting—now do so at the earliest opportunity! Don't miss out on some good fishing.

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ABOUT THOSE DEADLY SWIMMERS

Part One — *by John Fritz*

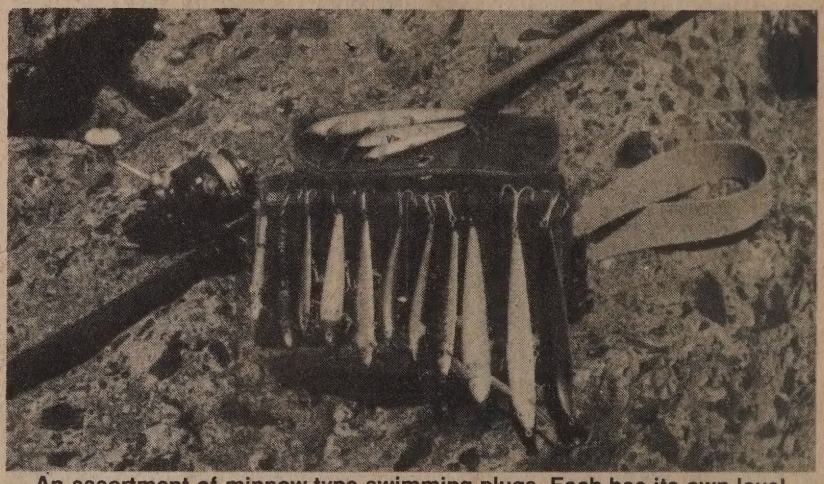
Night in and night out, those minnow shaped swimming plugs prove their worth in the suds.

It is without doubt that the minnow-shaped swimming plug is the most widely used lure in the repertoire of the plug caster who prowls the water's edge throughout the night-time hours. There are isolated instances and conditions where darters, bottle plugs or metal-lipped swimmers will outproduce these slender favorites, but given the over-all picture it is the slim-bodied swimmer which will account for a majority of the quality game fish over the course of a season.

In the Long Island area the two most popular plugs, by far, are Cordell's RedFins and the Rebel line, produced in an area far from Long Island. Latest word has it that these two companies, located way down in Arkansas, have merged. Hopefully, some cost efficient expert will not decide to discontinue some of the models which work so well in our area—a fact of business life which had denied us three dynamite lures already: the smooth finish 4½ inch Rebel sinker, the 5½ inch Rebel jointed sinker and the stubby 6 inch Rebel known as the Windcheater.

The state of Texas offers two nominees which are gaining in popularity with the local anglers. These are the Hellcats and the Bomber floating swimmers. An excellent feature of the Hellcats and of some models of the Bomber lures is that the finish is embedded into the body of the plug where it is virtually indestructible, unlike the Rebel and RedFin chrome finished plugs which tend to peel after repeated use. Concluding the list of minnow type swimmers with which I have some familiarity are three imports from Finland: the well known Rapala, a super plug which is being accepted by an ever-increasing number of plug casters, the Nils Master and the Finn Oreno marketed by South Bend Tackle of South Otselic, N.Y.

The three imports are all hand-made superior quality wooden plugs, most of which are more suited for use only in fresh water. A few models of these plugs are fitted to our needs; in fact there are occasions when they will outfish the more widely used American made products. Of these, the 1½ ounce, 7 inch Rapala magnum floater and the larger sizes of the Countdown models have taken their share of saltwater gamefish. Certain models of the Nils Master line have produced extremely well, an accomplishment which induces knowledgeable anglers into including them among the array of items prepared for a night's fishing. In the Invincible series, plugs one ounce or larger, in both the solid and jointed bodies styles are the specific Nils Master plugs which have found favor along the Long Island beaches.



An assortment of minnow-type swimming plugs. Each has its own loyal following.

The American made plugs are hollow-bodied objects constructed of hard plastic, a material which provides durability plus the means to alter the action and weight of the lightweight floating models. If there is one complaint against the use of any of these plugs it is their inability to be cast any significant distance. While it is true that the fish are often literally at your feet and that these plugs are rarely used when encountering a stiff onshore wind with its accompanying agitated sea conditions, there are occasions when that extra distance can be the difference between having fish on the beach or going home skunked.

The advantage of being able to vary the weight of these hollow plugs greatly increases an already vast selection of weights, lengths and body styles presently available in your favorite tackle store. The most accepted method of adding weight, usually plain water, is by heating the end of a small nail or safety pin to a degree where it will pierce the outer shell of the plug. With the aid of a calibrated syringe a specified amount of liquid can be injected into the hollow core of the plug. The quantity of water to be added varies greatly with the size of the plug itself, whether the plug should retain the ability to float, the depth of the water likely to be fished, weight of the tackle to be used and certain other conditions subject to the needs or judgment of the individual angler. Volumes can vary from as little as 2 cc's for the smaller five inch models to as much as 12 cc's put into the large seven inch plugs. My personal preference is to inject as much water as possible, but still allow the plug to retain its buoyancy.

RedFins are normally loaded by melting a hole in the top of the head at a point just behind the eyes. The Rebels and Hellcats are best filled by making the hole on the underside of the plug; for the Rebel just forward of the front hook and in a similar spot before the second hook on the Hellcat. Rather than mess with mixing epoxy, which is prone to leaks, the opening is best sealed by reheating the nail point

and using it to roll the edges of the hole towards the center until the former opening is completely sealed with its own material.

A method used by a handful of bass-wise surfmen on Nantucket, who use seven inch floating Rebels almost exclusively to take sizeable striped bass from the ocean's beaches, makes use of a material available in any hardware store—1/8 inch diameter solid wire solder. Make 3½ wraps of solder around the rear section of the plug, starting approximately one half inch forward of the tail hook, and work towards the front of the plug. The solder is sealed into place by using a quality waterproof epoxy, such as Marine-Tex, a plug weighted in this manner will cast like a bullet and swim with an action similar to that of a darter.

Stock models routinely used in saltwater range in lengths from the diminutive 3½ inch Rebels, for use in sheltered bodies of water such as those found when fishing the back bays or the waters of Long Island Sound, to the top of the line seven inch versions suitable for taking large fish from almost any saltwater environment, without needed alteration. The smaller models are customarily designed for the sweet water fisherman who, by the way, makes up the majority of anglers who purchase these lures, therefore, they must be modified somewhat when powerful saltwater game fish are likely to be encountered. The split rings on many plugs 5½ inches and under should be replaced with heavy duty split rings of the same size, manufactured for use in saltwater. In a similar mannner, many of the hooks used on these plugs will not withstand the extreme pressures put on them by a good-sized game fish using the force of a strong current to his best advantage. If a hook straightens during the course of battling a trophy fish don't bend it back into its original shape unless it is the only lure of its type on hand. Once it has been twisted out of shape, the hook is weakened to a point where the next time pressure is exerted on that particular bend it will snap. It is better to be prepared for any eventuality beforehand by replacing the hooks provided by the manufacturer with 4X strong hooks of a similar size.

There is a wide variation in the weights of these plugs, a characteristic I have previously mentioned and one which will restrict the angler from casting as far as the better balanced poppers, darters or other similar plugs. Even with this restriction they are an excellent plug to use in conjunction with a teaser. This will cut down on an already limited cast; therefore, most surfmen using these plugs will be waist deep in the water and trying to figure out a way to get further offshore. The body styles, on the other hand, present the angler with a rather extensive selection from which to choose. Whether straight bodied or jointed, floater or sinker, deep diver or shallow runner, a shape and model to fill every need. Unfortunately, there is only a limited number of compartments in a plug bag, a restriction which forces an angler to set up beforehand the array of plugs to be used in a particular set of angling conditions.

It is somewhat bewildering that a certain style of plug will receive general acceptance in one area, in another it will be totally ignored. Very few of my acquaintances will use a sinking model of the RedFin whereas Staten Island surfmen swear by their effectiveness. The Hellcats have been a favorite lure of New Jersey anglers for many years. It is only through a chance meeting of a handful of Jersey anglers with a club from Long Island, while working the beaches of Nantucket, that this productive plug was introduced to this area's fishermen. Even today, many years after, there are very few local tackle stores which carry a supply of these plugs, a lure which has taken countless striped bass and weakfish from neighboring waters.

The sinking, jointed Rebel is another example of a lure which has its advocates in one area, but is scorned in most other sections of the coast. So much in fact, that production of this model has been discontinued by the manufacturer. Fortunately for its adherents, the joint floater can be loaded with water to make it sink, a practice which will still provide the necessary action to attract fish.

Preferred color schemes can vary with the season, the prevalent bait, clarity of the water or the amount of natural light. Silver is always a good choice but as stated previously it peels rather rapidly when subjected to the rigors of heavy fishing or from being jostled around in the compartments of a plug bag. If kept in its original package there will be less damage to the exterior finish but eventually the mirror-like coating will deteriorate leaving a plug bearing little appeal to the eye of the angler but one which may still account for more than its share of fish. Such favorite plugs are not tampered with and are used only when there is little danger of their being lost. Of course, such beat up plugs can be refinished and even though no paint will restore it to its original luster, Nybco's chrome aluminum spray enamel will produce a reasonable facsimile. Other more durable colors, which continue to take fish over the years, are the ever popular combination of red head and white body and the yellow and pearl or blue and pearl RedFins. Solid black plugs are frequently readily accepted lures on exceptionally dark nights while solid yellow or fluorescent red will produce more favorable results when fishing in murky waters.

Next week we will continue our coverage of this most popular plug with more emphasis on methods and techniques used by successful plug casters.

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GEAR UP FOR COD

by Mike Kersey

A look at what helps score better catches of cod and pollack.

Stepping board an open boat in quest of cod is no guarantee that you'll put meat in the freezer. Those anglers who come prepared to meet various conditions have the edge. Before venturing off on a cod trip, the best approach is to pay a visit to a local tackle shop that caters to codfish fans. The man behind the counter will be more than happy to advise you on a proper selection of rigs, jigs, and sinkers and if need be, an outfit suited to open boat cod. Some of my own thoughts should help you on your way to becoming one of those "well prepared" anglers.

A well prepared angler carries his own equipment—don't expect the party boat to have all the specialized gear you might desire. I like to carry two outfits. One eight foot rod for open bottom and light enough for sensitivity. The other rod will be a short six or seven foot boat rod for wreck fishing. There are many types of reels on the market today. Several of my friends like the Daiwa Sealine 400H and the 350H. Penn makes a good reel also, especially the Senator 4/0 and the Penn 67.

Line should be at least 40 pound test monofilament. Anything under this to me is ridiculous, especially if big cows are around. Heavier lines for example, 50 lb. and up can put quite a strain on a 30 lb. class rod or yourself when hooked into a wreck. I only use 50 lb. test line on my leaders attached to 5/0 or 6/0 hooks for small fish and 8/0 or 9/0 hooks for those big cows.

On our last trip the mates had mentioned that big fish were around. Each member in our party immediately changed from 5/0 to 8/0 hooks. It certainly paid off as each member

A good catch of cod and pollack.

caught a fish tipping the scales between 35 and 51 pounds.

A heavy leader also helps keep lines from fouling. I often use one 12 to 18 inch leader tied about four feet above the sinker. One of the many tips I learned was to carry a spool of 10 lb. test line for connecting weights to the end of the cod rig. In the event of snagging into a wreck, only the sinker is lost. When fishing open bottom, I use a standard hi-low rig. This can be constructed by taking a black hollow pointed Mustad hook or a commercial codfish rig and attach it just above the sinker. The other hook should be fastened about three feet above that. Remember, hook size should be according to the size of the fish. Don't hesitate to check with the mates or captain to inquire about approximate fish weight. I often carry line connectors for easy hook attachment and one does not have to tie knots in their line. Bear Paw and Aqua Clear Line Connectors are recommended.

Carry enough weights to handle depth and currents. A pair of weights weighing between 8 to 16 ounces should suffice.

On a recent trip I notice that more and more anglers were sliding red, yellow, and orange beads above their hooks. This did help produce more fish.

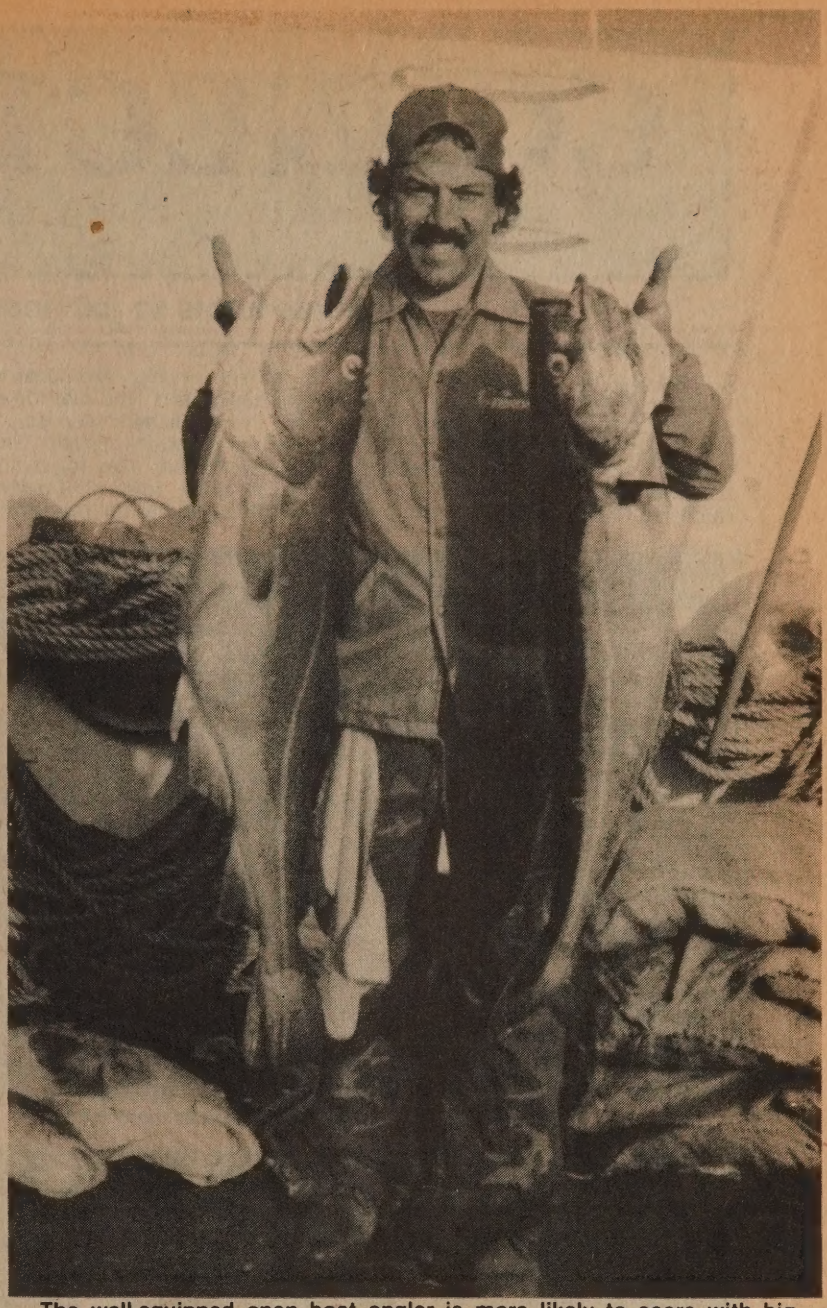
More than likely on the first stop you will want to try your luck jigging for pollack. These fish are chasers and usually lie above the cod.

Jigging can be big fun and will remind you of jigging monster blues even though the technique is most lift and drop on some days. For jigging success, I highly recommend jigs weighing from 10 to 17½ ounces. My most successful jigs have been a 14 oz. Bridgeport Diamond jig and a 17½ oz. Norwegian jig. A pollack teaser in a 9/0 or 10/0 size hook should be placed about three feet above the jig. These teasers can be made with surgical tubes in red, yellow, orange, green or fluorescent colors. My favorite colors have been red and fluorescent orange. Attach this jigging rig to a heavy duty swivel or a heavy duty ball bearing snap swivel with brazed ring. The latter is the best. If no pollack are caught or the action slows down, now is the time to reset your rig for cod.

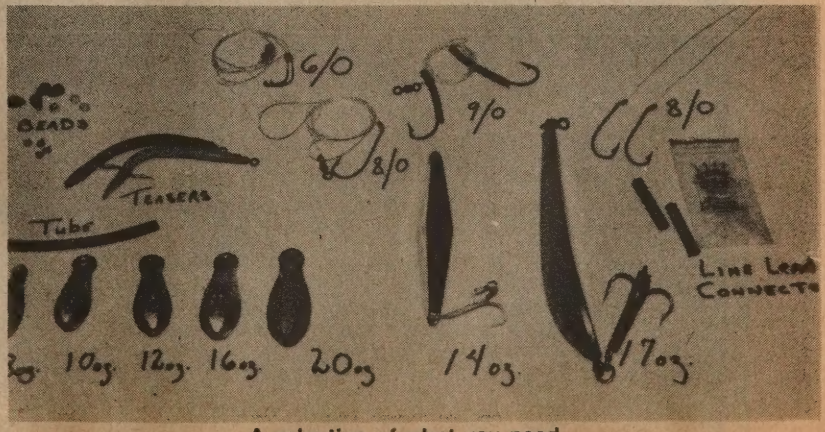
Most party boats carry clams for bait. The fresher the better. Strip herring, mackerel, and large sand eels are also good baits. One rule to remember when baiting for these fish is to load up the hook with bait.

On most party boat trips I have been fortunate to attend, most of the customers don't ask the proper questions to be successful, nor do they have nearly the right equipment. Many times they leave a boat the way they boarded—empty-handed.

The team that I fished with was able to share most of the basic equipment needed to be successful. And, no matter what species you seek, you can be sure that the right equipment makes a difference.



The well-equipped open boat angler is more likely to score with big pollack as well.



A selection of what you need.

CONNECTING L

by Pete Barrett

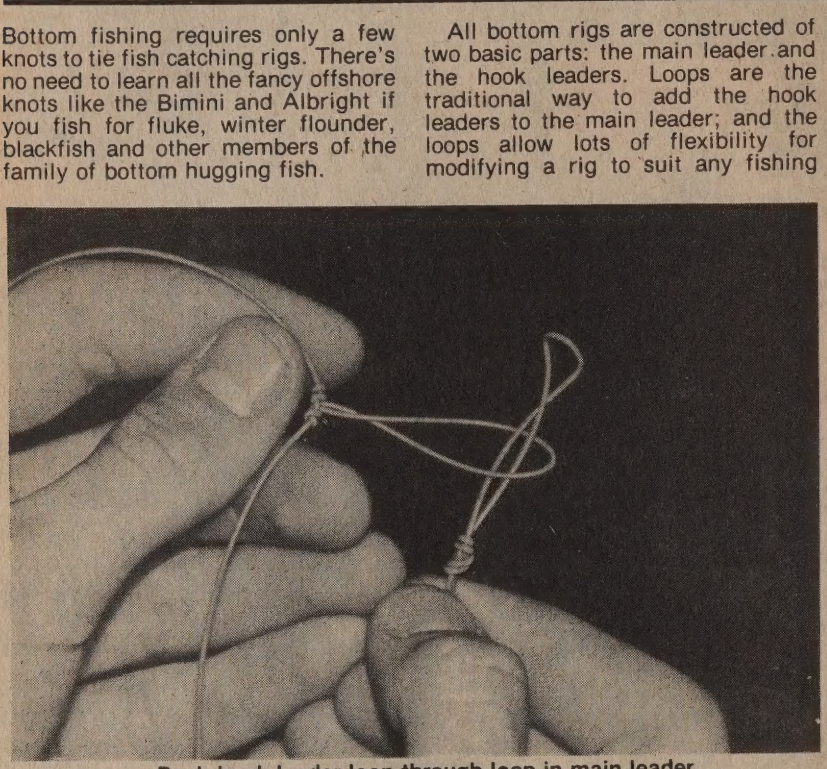
Simple knots to join leaders for quick and easy bottom

Bottom fishing requires only a few knots to tie fish catching rigs. There's no need to learn all the fancy offshore knots like the Bimini and Albright if you fish for fluke, winter flounder, blackfish and other members of the family of bottom hugging fish.

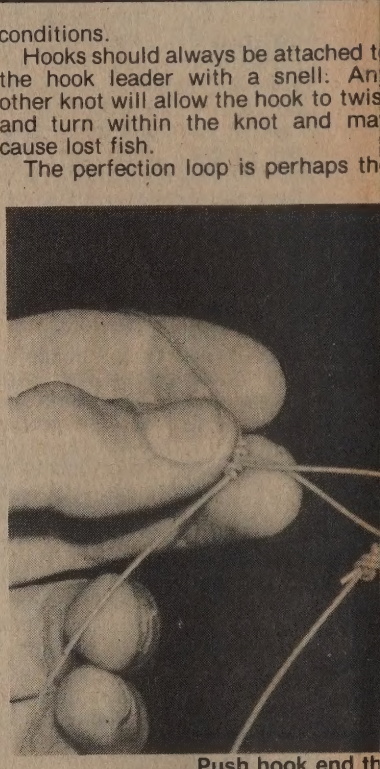
All bottom rigs are constructed of two basic parts: the main leader and the hook leaders. Loops are the traditional way to add the hook leaders to the main leader; and the loops allow lots of flexibility for modifying a rig to suit any fishing conditions.

Hooks should always be attached t the hook leader with a snell. An other knot will allow the hook to twis and turn within the knot and ma cause lost fish.

The perfection loop is perhaps th



Push hook leader loop through loop in main leader.

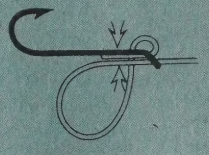


Push hook end th

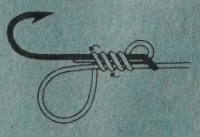
Snell Knot

The Snell Knot provides a strong connection when fishing with bait and using a separate length of leader.(You can only use a Snell Knot with a leader.)

1.Insert one end of the leader through the hook's eye extending one to two inches past the eye. Insert the other end of the leader through the eye in the opposite direction pointing toward the barb of the hook. Hold the hook and leader ends between thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Leader will hang below the hook in a large loop.

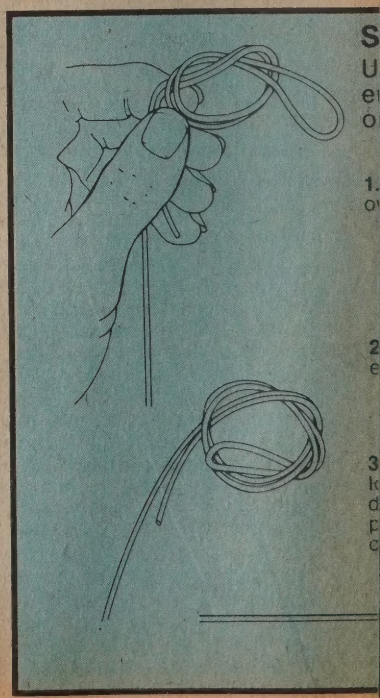


2.Take the part of this loop that is closest to the eye and wrap it over the hook shank and both ends of the leader toward the hook's barb.



3.Wrap for 7 or 8 turns and hold wraps with left hand. Grip the end of the leader that is through the eyelet with your right hand and pull it slowly and steadily. Hold the turns with your left hand or the knot will unravel. When knot is almost tight, slide it up against the the eye of the hook. Grip the short end lying along the shank of the hook with a pair of pliers. Pull this end and the standing line at the same time to completely tighten the knot.

4.Trim the tag end.



OOPS

gs.

most popular loop knot; however, it's a relatively weak knot and most anglers are now switching over to the double surgeon's loop, shown in the diagrams.

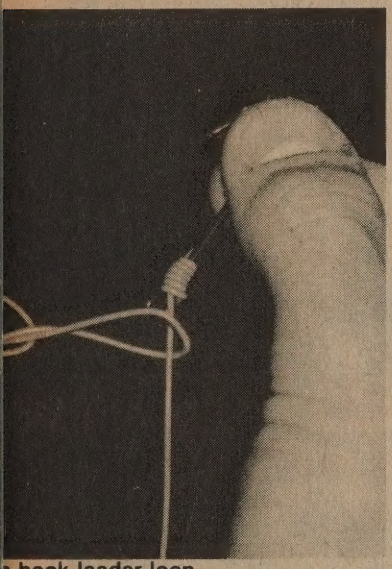
Regardless of which knot you use, hey both make a fast and easy loop at the end of the hook leader. Loops can be used at the ends of the main leader: one to attach the sinker; the other to the main fishing line. Now we need another loop to interlock the hook leaders to the main rig.

The dropper loop does this easily and once tied in place, it will not slip. Directions for tying the dropper loop are also shown. This is an easy knot to tie, but often tying the first one is difficult. Practice a few times and once you get the hang of it, you can practically do it blind-folded.

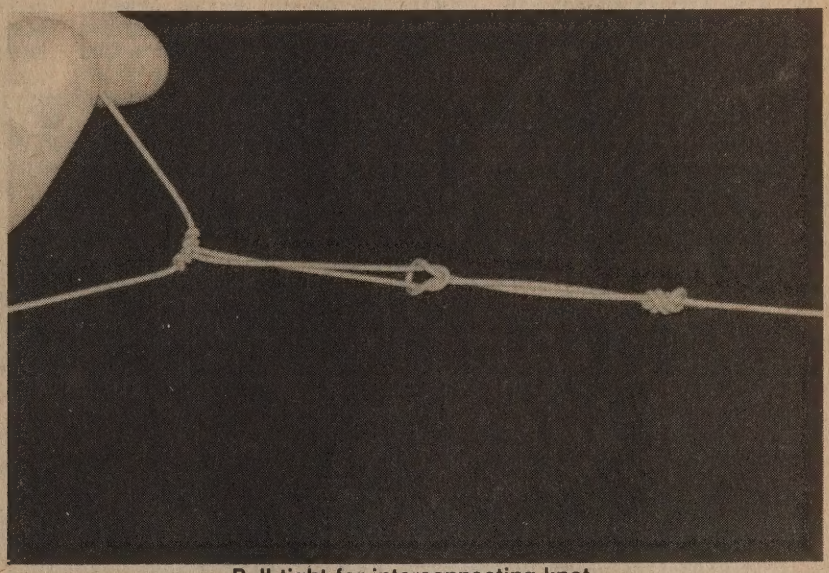
To attach the hook leader to the dropper loop on the main leader, pass the loop of the hook leader through the dropper loop, then pass the hook end of the hook leader through its loop. Pull tight and both leaders will be interlocked. And, you can also remove the leader at any time by pushing on the leader and relieving the tension on the loops so they come apart. The accompanying photos show how to interlock the loops.

A double hook rig can also be made without using the dropper loop. Simply wrap the hook loop around the main leader, push the hook through the loop and pull tight. However, this connection can slip along the main leader as you fight a fish. It is an easy matter to slide the leader back into position after unhooking the fish, and the leader will usually stay in place while fishing—it only moves after the strike of a fish.

Three simple knots. Used in pairs or singly, they allow the fisherman to attach hooks, attach sinkers and construct quick and easy leader rigs for any bottom fish. Mastering them should improve your sinker bouncing.



n hook leader loop.



Pull tight for interconnecting knot.

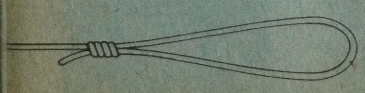
eon's End Loop

iis knot to tie a loop in the a line for attaching leaders er terminal tackle quickly.

e end of line to form loop and tie an id knot at the base of double line.

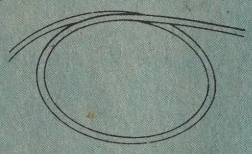
loop open in knot and bring doubl- through once more.

standing line and tag end and pull tighten knot. Size of loop can be ned by pulling loose knot to disired nd holding it while knot is tightened. end.

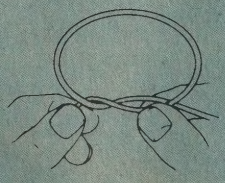


Dropper Loop

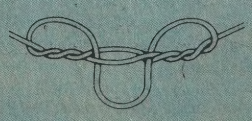
This forms a loop in the middle of an otherwise unknoted line and to which a hook, sinker or fly can be attached.



1. Form a loop in the line.

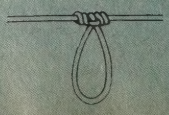


2. Pull one side of the loop down and begin taking turns with it around the standing line. Keep point where turns are made open so turns gather equally on each side.



3. After eight to ten turns, reach through center opening and pull remaining loop through. Keep finger in this loop so it will not spring back.

4. Hold loop with teeth and pull both ends of line, making turns gather on either side of loop.



5. Set knot by pulling lines as tightly as possible. Tightening coils will make loop stand out perpendicular to line. This is not a strong knot but it is useful for panfish and small saltwater species.

SPINY DOGFISH:

Nuisance or Nourishment?

by Einar F. Grell

What do you think? Are dogfish really a nuisance when you are out codfishing? What do you know about them? Might they actually be a blessing in disguise and a great source of nourishment?

The spiny dogfish is a small shark known by a variety of names. Its scientific name is **Squalus acanthias**, but common names include spiny dogfish, horned dogfish and in the marketplace, grayfish or "rock salmon." Most of the names refer to the prominent, sharp spines in front of the two dorsal fins. When fully grown, the dogfish is about 2½ to 3½ feet long and weighs between seven and ten pounds. Its slender, streamlined body is slate-colored with rows of small white spots on the sides. The species is found in many of the oceans of the world, especially along the coasts and over the continental shelves of the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans. It is one of the most abundant fishes in the North Atlantic, but has little economic value in the United States today. They are best known here for being destructive to fishing gear and interfering with

both commercial and recreational fishing for cod. Most of my fishing friends feel that they are a curse upon man when they are out codfishing and encounter them instead of Mr. Whiskers. In Europe, however, dogfish are heavily exploited as a food fish and are being used to produce costly hors d'oeuvres and inexpensive fish and chips.

In the western North Atlantic, the range of the spiny dogfish extends from Greenland south to the vicinity of Cape Lookout, North Carolina in depths less than 1,200 feet. The distribution of the species probably can best be described in terms of temperature since they favor water between 43 and 50 degrees.

About 4,800 spiny dogfish, most being mature adults, have been tagged off the East Coast of the United States recently. Though the return rates have been low, they have shown a clear pattern of migration. Mature adults winter over in southern waters just inside the western edge of the Gulf Stream from northern Florida to about the Virginia Capes. It is probably during this period that the young are born. Dogfish are continually on the move. The most dramatic evidence for this was provided by a fish which migrated from Block Island to Mayport, Florida in 98 days for an estimated rate of migration of 11.4 nautical miles per day. The migration of the adults is regular enough that fish originally tagged from one school have been recaptured at the same place in succeeding years within 10 days of the anniversary date of tagging.

Spiny dogfish in American waters have never been important as a source of food, but they have long been a source of valuable oil and vitamins. As far back as 1877, oil from their large livers was used as a lubricant, to dress and tan hides as well as fuel for lamps. When World War II prevented the importation of shark liver oil, a source of natural Vitamin A, domestic dogfish liver oil was used instead. In the 1950s, spiny dogfish were used to make fish meal for hog and poultry feed. Spiny dogfish were made into protein concentrate (FPC) and a few thousand pounds are landed each year to be used directly as food fillets or steaks.

Dogfish are neither a swift nor very active shark. However, when caught, they thrash violently, curling their bodies like a bow and striking out with the slightly poisonous dorsal spines. The wounds these produce may be painful, as most fishermen sooner or later find out.

Commercial fishermen in American waters, as well as sport fishermen, continue to avoid the spiny dogfish like the proverbial plague. One can only speculate that under the circumstances the population of dogfish will continue to expand to the detriment of other species. Perhaps one of the best things that could be done for the North Atlantic fisheries would be to exploit the spiny dogfish on the commercial market, thus eliminating the nuisance aspect of the species. Why not then make them nutritional?

All fishermen of these waters, especially cod fishermen, should at least try to eat these critters before making the judgment that they are a worthless fish. I can remember many years back when they said the same thing about blowfish until people began to eat them. Fishermen found them delicious. If dogfish are good eating in Europe, then they should be just as good to eat here in the United States. Whey not give them a try?

Immediately upon catching a dogfish, cut off the head, tail and gut the fish. Keep the fish cool. On arriving home, cut the fish into small steaks or fillets. Marinate the small steaks or fillets for one to two hours in a mixture of lemon juice, chopped onions, olive oil and rosemary. Broil the fillets or steaks in a very hot, preheated broiler four inches from the flame or heat source until the fish is brown on one side. Turn the fish over and brown the other side. Continue cooking until done. Experiment with times for cooking. The most important thing to remember is that dogfish should be eaten as soon as possible after catching. I have tried the above recipe and now find that many of my early season cod trips have become more enjoyable now that I bring something home to eat. An activity in fishing which was really quite a nuisance now has become an activity which is now very rewarding. Another advantage to eating dogfish involves that of expense. Why throw away dogfish as a good source of food when you have gone to the trouble of purchasing expensive skimmer clams which you have fed them with. If you catch no cod and eat no fish, the trip could be expensive. If you catch no cod and do catch dogfish on an early cod trip, the trip is less expensive and more rewarding.

Go codfishing in November and December using regular codfishing tackle and believe me, you will soon catch dogfish. Dogfish appear in large numbers off Long Island in the few days just before the cod season takes hold. Matter of fact, most cod fishermen look forward to catching dogfish as a harbinger of good codfishing to follow. It is not unusual to catch many dogfish early in a day's fishing just before catching codfish. Many times you will catch 15 to 20 dogfish, or more, interspersed with several good size cod. If you catch too many dogfish at a particular spot move to another location where possibly your dogfish menu will be varied with that of cod.

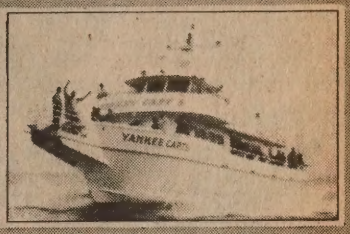
At any rate, the codfishing season will always commence with the dogfish season. There is nothing that you can do about this fact of nature except to put dogfish on your eating menu until the cod really arrive. As the waters get colder, cod and whiting will take over. Until then, convert the nuisance into a source of nourishment.

Key West, Florida

DEEP SEA FISHING

ABOARD THE 100'

YANKEE CAPTS!



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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) **CODFISH** ARE A FINE FOOD AND SPORTFISH, BUT A *"SACRED COD"*... WHERE DOES THAT EXPRESSION COME FROM, A READER ASKS?

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

(2) **BLUEFISH** HAVE LONG SINCE GONE SOUTH AND NO WAY CAN THEY BE CAUGHT BOTTOM FISHING FOR COD ON CLAM BAIT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) **MOST SHOTGUNS**, WHEN THEY COME FROM THE FACTORY, HAVE A TRIGGER PULL OF...

1-3 LBS. ☐
4-6 LBS. ☐
7-9 LBS. ☐

(4) **WILD MALLARD** DUCKS ARE FOUND IN WHICH OF THESE COUNTRIES...

CHINA ☐
FRANCE ☐
CANADA ☐

(5) **DOGFISH** THAT TAKE YOUR CODFISH BAIT CAN SWIM AT A SPEED OF...

20 MPH ☐
30 MPH ☐
40 MPH ☐

(6) **TWO FATHERS** AND THREE SONS WENT FISHING AND EACH CAUGHT ONE FISH, BUT THEY BROUGHT ONLY THREE FISH HOME, HOW COME?

1 - THE VALUE OF CODFISH TO NEW ENGLAND IS EVIDENCED BY THE USE OF A CODFISH ON THE STATE SEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS WHERE A GILDED CARVING OF THE *"SACRED COD"* HANGS IN THE BOSTON STATE HOUSE. 2 - FALSE. I HAVE CAUGHT BLUES ON COD CLAM BAIT / 3 - FOUR TO 6 LBS. 4 - IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES. 5 - 30 MPH. 6 - THE FISHING PARTY WAS ONE GRANDFATHER, HIS SON AND HIS GRANDSON!

East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Fair to good catches this week have been reported on cod, flounder, and bass. Blackfishing has been extremely strong as has bluefishing. The mid-week storm kept a lot of boats from sailing at the latter part of the week, but there was a bounce back trend noted Sunday.

MONTAUK

From Capt. Richie Rade's **Marlin Fleet** comes word of two to three cod a man on the **M IV** on bait. Ten to 12 pound blackfish are gobbling up green crab bait with catches averaging 6 to 10 of these bruisers a man. The boat has now switched to cod, blacks and pollock on a daily basis. Rich noted that his green crabs on the boat are free. The boat has been working the Block Island grounds. The **M V** continues to bail giant bluefish, catches running from 15 to 30 choppers a man, running anywhere from 12 to 20 lbs., every trip out. Still plenty of blues around. One fare also nailed a 12 lb. bass on Wednesday.

A call from Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** told of continued decent codfish catches at the Block Island grounds, fish going 6 to 12 lbs., all on bait. The skipper expects fishing to really take off once the water cools down.

Captain Buddy Dorman's 6-man

Rolf Rivera and Marten Perez with 189 jumbo porgies taken aboard the "Viking Starship" at Nomans.

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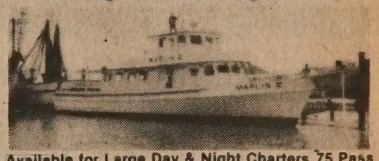
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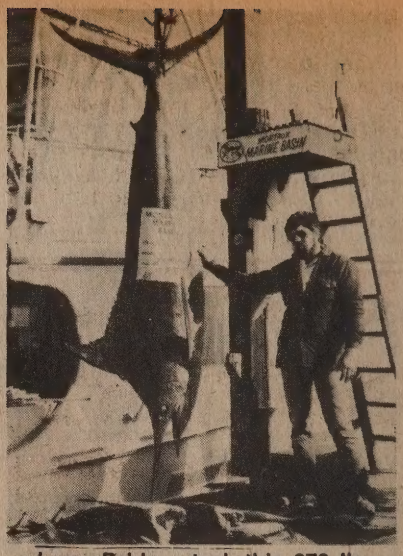

Larry Bridges took this 378 lb. blue marlin during a trip to Block Canyon aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Bronco Explorer." The big billfish was weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

limit open boat **Waxed** continued fare to good striped bass fishing, all on diamond jigs. Big fish of the week was a 32 lber. The last sailing day will be Sunday, November 20. Open fishing spots are available each day, said Bud.

Captain Phil Lewis and mate Skip of the charter boat **Adios** wish to thank their customers who sailed them this year and the duo hopes to see them back again in '84. Phil advised that there are still plenty of bluefish at Montauk but that the striper season has been on the spotty side.

LIF subscriber Paul Lee and five buddies fishing aboard the Hooker on Monday socked it to 10 bass. The three largest were 33, 29 and 20 lbers., with the remainders in the teens plus 10 small blues.

From the charter boat **King Wayne** we learn of Saturday's trip trolling blues under the light for Randy Aloise and party. Sunday's codfishing trip saw 24 bacalla taken from 12 to 20 lbs. on clam along with nine blacks and a healthy catch of sea bass and blues all on open bottom. Wayne worked Cartwright and says it looks like a good codfish year shaping up.

SOUTH FORK

We were happy to hear from Capt. Artie Lach of the **Sag Harbor** open boat **Wilhelric** that the blackfishing Monday through Wednesday was beyond anyone's wildest dreams. On Tuesday an estimated 1,000 plus blacks came over the rail. On Wednesday, "Cowboy" was high hook with 35 blackfish to 9½ lbs. From Thursday on everything was wiped out with the weather. The boat has

been fishing the north side of Big Gull and Mad Dog Reef.

From **Speck's Tackle** in **Southampton** we learn that Shinnecock Inlet this week has produced small blacks on green crab, while in Shinnecock bay flounder have been hot and cold. Best spots have been the Basket, 17 and Heady Creek with fish 3/4 to 1 lb. on worm and mussel.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

As is so often the case at this point in the season, wind had a major effect on the fishing activity in these parts. Mid-day Thursday through Saturday were lost to the elements as west and northwest winds gusted to 40 and 50 mile per hour on Friday and Saturday. Some anglers salvaged Sunday out of the weekend as morning winds diminished.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

All reports indicate that flounder action in the bay is pretty solid with nice size fish the rule. Chumming with mussels or clams has been the key to the better scores.

After being shut down by all the wind on Friday and Saturday, Larry Dallaire of **L&M Marine** in **East Moriches** had to be pleased with Sunday's results. He said that those who fished the afternoon flood were treated to calm winds and good flattie action. Walt Phillips and Ed Lancaster, who did well last week at buoy 42, returned to the scene on Sunday to take 54 good size flounder on mussel bait and chum. Larry reminded that some of last season's best fishing occured during December and January and so he will keep boats available through the winter. Just phone ahead and he will have a boat waiting. His number at **L&M** is 878-4777.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** spoke of good flounder fishing when boats can get out. Tuesday and Wednesday were good before all the wind with boats returning with 30 to 60 nice flatties apiece. Most of the fish are between 1 and 2 pounds. The best fishing had been at buoys 40-42 and Haven's Point. Those who use heavy mussel chum take the most fish. The best catch of the week belonged to James and Joe Napoli and Carlos Fujarda. The trio finished with 76 fish up to 2½ pounds. Gary reminded that Sunday, November 27, will be his last

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Mike and Marie Peng with 105 flounder up to 2¼ lbs. taken in Moriches Bay. The couple did their fishing out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in E. Moriches.

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John and George used Ava jigs to take 31 stripers aboard Captain John DeMaio's charter boat "Vivienne."

Bill Carlson and Hank Schlanger with 50 flounder caught at buoy 54 in Moriches Bay. Fishing was done out of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

day of the season.

Over at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** in **East Moriches,** Al Lassen said that anglers have been doing well with 1 to 2 pound flatties whenever winds are down. Mussel chum helps. John Amuri finished with over 30 nice fish on Sunday.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

According to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue,** the colder weather has improved flounder fishing off of Howell's Point, Bellport and in the Smith Point Bridge area. Worms and chum (clam or mussel) are taking most of the fish. Big blues outside Fire Island and Moriches Inlets as recently as Sunday for trollers and jiggers. Also, some cod now being taken on offshore wrecks.

Plenty of big blues outside Fire Island Inlet Sunday, reported Al Colban of **J&R Sport Center** in **Oakdale.** Fish were trolled and jigged. Decent flounder action spread around the bay with fish being taken in the State Channel, West Channel, Heckscher and buoy 27 on worms and clams with clam chum. Good numbers of white perch in the Connetquot, Carmens and Mill Rivers. Try small spinners like the #1 Mepps or worms. Bubble Falls and Rattlesnake Creek have lots of trout in the 8 to 13 inch range.

A tremendous school of teen-size blues greeted several members of the **Captree** open boat fleet on Sunday morning. It was their first look outside the inlet after being kept dockside by all of the wind.

Capt. CArl Passerro of the **Jib VI** spent the first two hours of the day wearing out passengers on the huge blues before setting up house on the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Here, 8 fares bagged approximately 150 blacks to 6 pounds and a 10 pound cod. The cod earned Tom Sheehan the day's pool. Unable to sail from Thursday through Saturday due to the weather, Carl went back Tuesday to tell of Cathy Ann Capoale of East Meadow who took that days pool with a 8.2 pound

black. Seventeen fares accounted for 250 blacks. Despite the good action, the skipper feels the best fishing is yet to come. The boat is now sailing at 7AM daily.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** treated his fares to the same wild bluefish action before concentrating on blackfish. Fares enjoyed a good pick of mostly 3 to 6 pound tautogs atop the Reef. Joe Kane led the way in the blackfish department with 31 fish up to 6 pounds.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty 3** has been plying offshore wrecks for a mixture of cod, sea bass, blackfish and blues. He had 7 cod in the 12 to 14 pound class aboard Sunday. Sea bass range to 3 pounds while some of the blacks have been in the 6 to 8 pound class. The skipper noted that he had water temperature readings of 49° on Sunday which bodes well for codfishing.

Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait Station** said that when the weather allows, boats are enjoying good action with blues and blacks outside the inlet. Flounder are spread around the bay but most boats manage to do a fair job on the fish. Pier fishermen pick away at the flatties with an occassional flurry of good action.

Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop in Babylon** said that several private boatmen cashed in on that big run of teen sized blues outside the inlet on Sunday. Fish were spread from the inlet east as far as the eye could see and were taken on jigs and umbrella rigs. Flounder fishing has been pretty good on the north side of the bay from Babylon west through Lindenhurst. Fred looked over several in the 2 lb. class taken from the vicinity of the sewer plant last week. Worms and clams worked fine in the bait department but you must chum with either clam or mussels if you're looking to rack up a decent score. Cod are on the offshore wrecks as evidenced by two catches made on Wednesday before all of the wind. Tony Didone and his crew put 20 cod to 20 lbs. and a 6 lb. sea bass aboard his Red, White and Blue. The Babylon Captains Association charter boat **Cindy Ann** put away 12 cod the same day.

Some very good blackfishing on the stone barge and the Fire Island reef when the weather allows it, according to George Combs of **Combs Bait and Tackle in Amityville**. Most fish ranged 3 to 6 lbs. with an occasional one going to 8. Still a few blacks in the bays, but this fishing is winding down with the cooler weather. Some cod are showing on the offshore wrecks and there are still plenty of big blues around. Some are mixed with cod on the wrecks. George termed the flounder fishing as worthwhile with the size of the fish improved. Some good scores being made at Squaw and West Island, Massapequa Cove, and between the first and second Wantagh bridges. Use mussels or worms and chumming is a must. Best action this past week occurred on the top of outgoing water. George reminded that he is now booking reservations for the duck and goose season. Call him at 264-3525 if you're interested in some good gunning.

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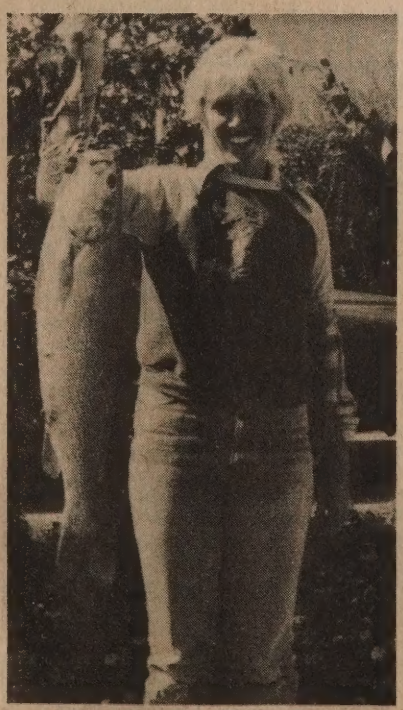

A live blackfish fished from a Point Lookout jetty produced this 14 lb. tiderunner weak for Mary Delay of Long Beach. Subscriber photo.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

While the codfish catches slowly begin to climb, on the inside, flounder pounders continue to pick away, having anywhere from a pick to a dynamite day.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Wanser's Tackle in Seaford** comes word of decent flounder catches on worm bait and plenty of chum at Four Corners, Squaw and west of the second Wantagh bridge.

The **Chinco III** will have its last trip of the season Wednesday, November 16th and is packing it in now for the season. Captain Brian wanted to thank all of his customers and says he'll see you next year.

The word from **Merrick Tackle in Bellmore** is basically of decent flounder catches being made primarily in Merrick Bay, with Merrick Point and Rowboat Alley as the prime spots. Both the moving tides have been working with worms, mussel and clam and plenty of chum.

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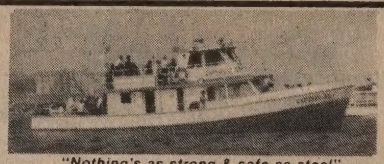

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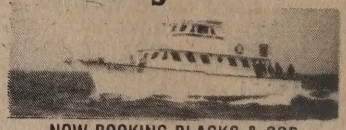

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Capt. Bill (212)LA8-4146 Capt. Joe (516) 826-9740

Swinging over to the boats out of **Freeport**, we hear from skipper Jim Lanzarotta of slowly building codfish catches. A couple of big cod were taken Sunday by his fares. Early in the week, 11 people had 22 cod. Bob Higgins of Maspeth landed a 38 lber. Sunday. Jim says there's lots of life around and cod catches should really pick up once the colder weather moves in. Blues, sea bass and blackfish are also being caught along with the cod.

Word from the **Capt. Al** is of plenty of fish. Fares are getting combinations of cod, sea bass, blues and blacks. Blues seem to be in unlimited numbers and catching 40 sea bass a man seems to be no problem either. Early in the week, 11 fares had over 20 cod. Steve Sibella of Bellmore and Andy Zuccerallo of Elmont had 6 cod between them up to 20 lbs., including a double header. Long Beach angler Rich Nelson scored with two cod including a 31 lb. pool winner while Tom Crawford of Amityville was runner up with a 30 lber.

Good flounder each trip out, was the report from the **Capt. Andy II**. The skipper felt it has been a good fall flounder season with the best yet to come. Outgoing tide has been best and fish are running 1/2 to 2 lbs. He did note that there are more throwbacks now, but the fish are THERE.

The word from the **Miss Freeport II** was of good floundering Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with high hooks in the 30s. Fish have been going to 1¼ lbs. Starting Thursday, November 25 the boat will be codfishing daily. Watch ad for sailing time.

We hear from **Lou's Fishing Station** at the end of Woodcleft Canal that as far as his private boat customers report to him, flounder catches have been fair this past week in both Merrick and Baldwin Bays. Blackfishing has been fair at the bridges and excellent at the offshore wrecks with fish up to 7 lbs. The T Wreck and Stone Barge have been especially productive. Mike Nicoletti had over 40 blackfish to 6½ lbs. fishing the stone barge. Good sea bass catches are mixed in. Cod has been slow for the private boats. On Sunday, Dave and Blanche Goodwin of Merrick worked Cholera with bunker chunks and came back with a cockpit full of the biggest kind of bluefish. Lou has heard of surf caught bass and knows that there are some big weakfish in the Debs Inlet area.

From **Nick's Fishing Station in Merrick** we heard of some stripers in the 30s taken by George Zipper in Haunts Creek on bunker.

In nearby Point Lookout we learned that the **Capt. Bill** has called it a season and that he looks forward to seeing all his customers comes spring flounder time. Till then, he will be sharing the wheel aboard his dad's **Capt. Al.**

From the **Miss Point Lookout** comes word of good flounder catches this week. Most days, high hooks have been in the 20s. On Tuesday, Tony

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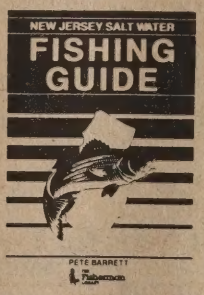

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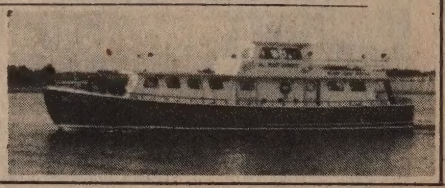

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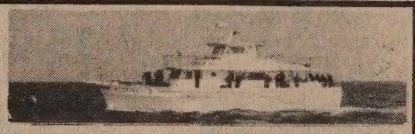

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Vilani had 24 flounder plus the pool fish. On Wednesday's AM trip, Ed and Emma McDermott had 55 flounder including the pool fish. On Thursday's AM trip, George Nemick took the pool with 2¼ lber. On Saturday's AM trip, 20 flounder took high hook honors despite the wind. Ace, a regular took the pool. On Sunday, it was 6 to 14 fish a man with Bill Wright grabbing the pool. On Sunday's PM trip high hook was in the 20s. Peg Ross bagged a 1¾ lb. flattie. Most of the action has been in Reynolds Channel and Long and Swift Creeks.

We hear from Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** that very good flounder catches have been made this week on worms in the area of the Magnolia Blvd. pier, the hole on the SE side of the AB Bridge and at Duck Point. On Sunday blues were all over the place, off the beach, biting on anything. Excellent blackfishing on all the wrecks and at the AB bridge on green crab. Fiddlers appear to be in short supply.

NEW YORK BIGHT

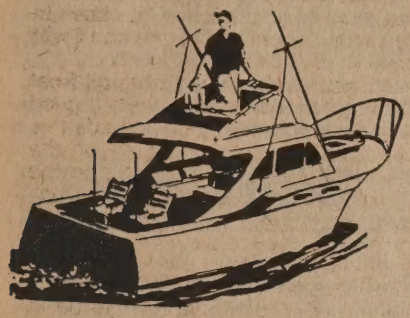
Word from the **Flamingo III** out of **Sheepshead Bay** is that as of Sunday, the bluefish are still very much around and all in the jumbo variety. Good catches have been made every trip out this week and it was excellent Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday also. Both bait and diamond jigs have been catching fish like crazy and the fall action is nothing short of great, said Capt. Walt.

From the **Zephyr** which is now sailing Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, we learn of Sunday's excellent blackfish catch which ran anywhere from a full 5 gallon pail to a full 55 gal. drum of blackfish, with fish running 2-5 lbs. on green crab. A couple dozen ling were also picked on Sunday. The boat has been working Scotland, Ambrose and Sea Bright, and will be sailing Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately after as well.

A call from Capt. George of the

The Bob Lucas party with a 160 lb. mako taken aboard the Freeport charter boat, "Nan-Sea." It was weighed at Lou's Fishing Station.

Pastime II told of flounder continuing good/excellent to the tune of 15 to 20 per man average. High hooks have been in the 30s and 40s. This was early in the week. Rain and high winds later in the week kept everyone at the dock. However, Sunday afternoon fishing bounced right back with six fares decking 157 keeper flounder. Most of the catches were made at the round house and Silver Hole on worms and mussels.



North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Strong winds kept most north shore anglers at bay from mid week on, although diminishing winds onSunday allowed some boatmen to salvage at least a part of the weekend. Blackfish are still in good shape through most of the Sound and flounder fishing appears to be well established at both ends of the Island.

WESTERN SOUND

Captain Leo Trosterud of the **City Island** open boat **Ebb Tide III** said that blackfish action was back up to par on Sunday with fares averaging about 15 tautogs apiece. High hook for the day left the boat with over 2 dozen blacks. Most are in the 3-4 lb. class but each day sees some fish up to 9 or 10 lbs. taken. Leo said he has been working in the vicinity of Pea Island and buoy 24C.

Over at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** the word from Phil was of plenty of flounder but many small fish in the area. Some bigger flatties in the 1 ro 2 lb. range have been taken off of Webb Institute. Still some blues taken off of the Morgan breakwater as recently as the weekend and lots of school bass around, though most that were taken this week fell under the new 24 inch size limit. Still decent blackfishing around locally but the best score of the week was made by one customer

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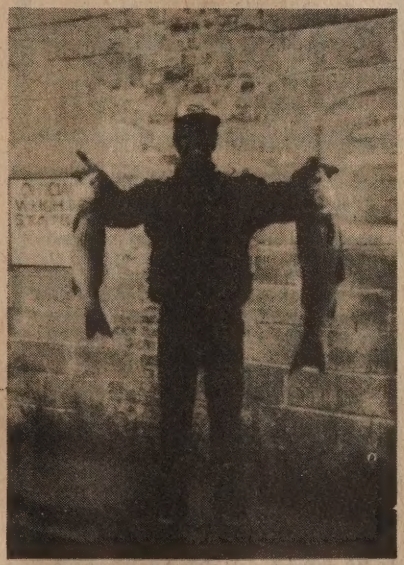

New York Yankee second baseman, Willie Randolph, with two of 13 school bass taken at Eaton's Neck with George Valentine of Four Winds Tackle and Captain Billy Collins aboard the "Packy IV."

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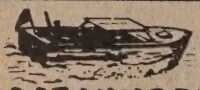

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

the word from **Four Winds Bait and Tackle in Huntington** is that strong winds knocked out most of the fishing in these parts late last week and over the weekend. Blackfishing was still very good before the wind arrived while the worm fishing for bass has been displaced by jigging. Not as many stripers this past week but the fish are still there.

NORTH FORK

Jim Dunkirk of **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reminded that both stations are closed for boat rentals, but he did know that private boats fishing out of the Orient Station did very well with blacks and flounder prior to the wind. Best flounder fishing has been east of the ferry dock on the bay side and adjacent to the fish traps on the Sound side. Lots of nice blacks at Plum Island, Mulford Point, at the light and at the Point itself. Back in the Southold area, very steady flounder action for fish in the 1 to 1½ lb. class in Pipe's Cove.

From **A.P. White Tackle Shop** we learned of the fabulous blackfish catches Sunday aboard Capt. George Porter's open boat **Brand X**. These great blackfish catches have seen fish up to 12 lbs. caught and the fish are around in super numbers. Flounder pounders have been having a field day at Petty's Bight and Orient Harbor on 1-3 lb. fish on worm and clam. A few bass are being deeply bucktailed in the Gut. The **Peconic**

Chicky Taverna, Jr. with his first weakfish, a 10 lber. taken on a live bunker at buoy 14 off of Staten Island.

Star on the days she has been sailing has been doing an equally top job on blackfish.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

A combination of strong winds and the calendar teamed to keep surf fishing interest to a minimum this pas week. Good bluefishing was the rule along much of the south shore and on the eastern sand beaches through Thursday morning, while the last solid bass action occurred at Montauk on Monday (a week ago) night.

This week's phoning revealed that big blues were in the west end, parking field 6 and Gilgo surf through the first half of last week. This via Scott Greenberg at **Merrick Tackle in Bellmore**. Fish were being taken on both bait and artificials and several casters told of a real blitz at parking field 6 Tuesday morning.

George Combs of **Combs Bait and Tackle** in **Amityville** received several reports of good bluefish action in the Gilgo area on Wednesday and Thursday. The only bass from this area was credited to Bill Slawata who weighed a 22 lb. 14 oz. striper at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**.

The Robert Moses surf, particularly in front of parking field 4 continued its reputation as a steady producer of bluefish with a number of casters taking anywhere from 4 to 8 big blues on tins and plugs on several occasions during the week. Fishing here, as with most places, was wiped out late in the week and on Saturday by strong winds and a high surf. Sunday found good conditions but the fish never found their way to the beach, although boatmen enjoyed super action on the other side of the outer bar.

The oceanfront stretching between Fire Island Inlet and Smith Point continued to produce red hot action with big blues. Some of these fish were the biggest kind of choppers. Two of the biggest blues of the season fell to casters working in front of Fire Island communities last week. Bill Frank, a resident of Ocean Beach used a Hopkins with a red tube to land a chopper of 23 lbs. 2 oz., missing the 20 lb. class record by only eight ounces.

Lt. Rodney Bowles, commander of Coast Guard Station Fire Island managed enough time on Wednesday to land a blue of 20 lbs. 11 oz. The big fish was officially weighed at Captree Bait Station.

According to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle in Patchogue** the Moriches Shore had its quota of big blues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday prior to the blow. Paul knew of fish taken in the pocket at the inlet, on the bar just west of the inlet and at Long Cove on the Fire Island National Seashore property. He took some time himself to team with Andy Torre and trek down to Long Cove. Plain tins accounted for 14 choppers, most in the 10 to 15 lb. class but including one of 18.8 lbs. taken by Andy.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch felt that while the wind hurt the weekend picture he felt that interest had diminished considerably. The last good bass action occurred Monday night with a number of nice fish taken under the light and at north bar. Leif Gobel, of Bayport and member of the Striper Surf Club used a 7½ inch RedFin to take bass of 20 and 37 lbs. at the bar. With the exception of a few nice fish taken by wet suiters on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, the only other big fish reported during the week was taken by Bill Gardiner who culled the Cow out of a horde of big blues which pocketed the bait in Scotts Friday morning. Other fish weighed in earlier in the week included a 34 lber. for John Dietz and a 25 lber for Daniel Venchiaruti. John noted that plenty of big blues up to 18 lbs. roamed the south side during the week through Thursday morning and reappeared again on Sunday morning when things settled down. They were taken on both tins and plugs.

The only north shore news concerns some small stripers and an occasional big blue being taken along the beaches near Hortons Point in the early morning and evening hours.

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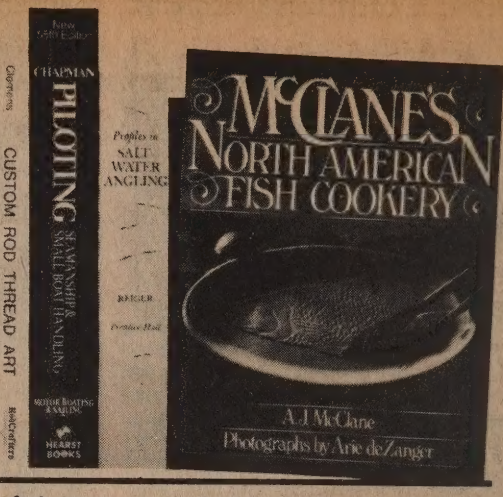

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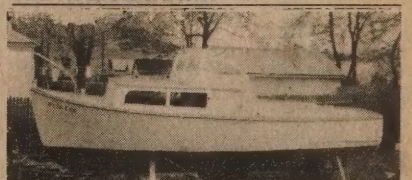

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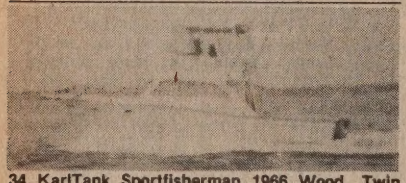

34 KarlTank Sportfisherman 1966 Wood. Twin screw 225 FWC, rebuilt engine 1982. Equip. for deep sea fishing. Ready to go. Has to be seen. After 6PM. 516-728-3802.

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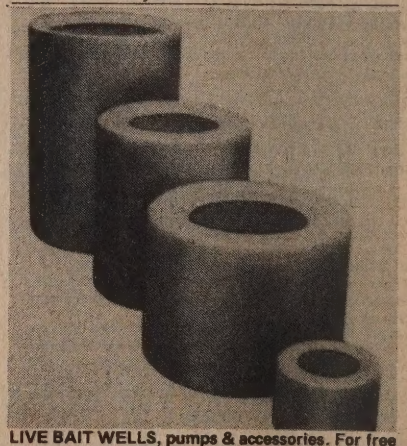

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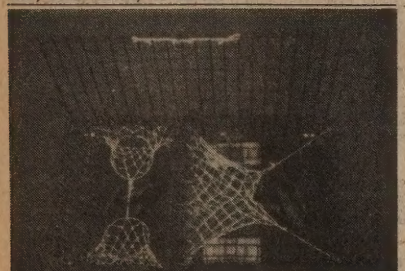

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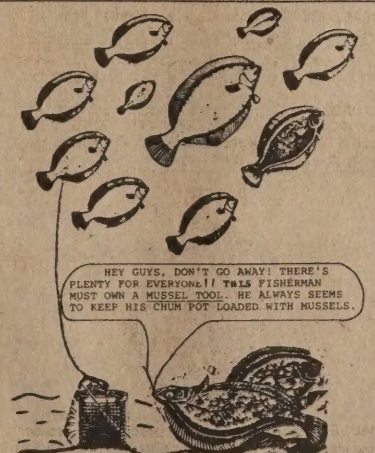
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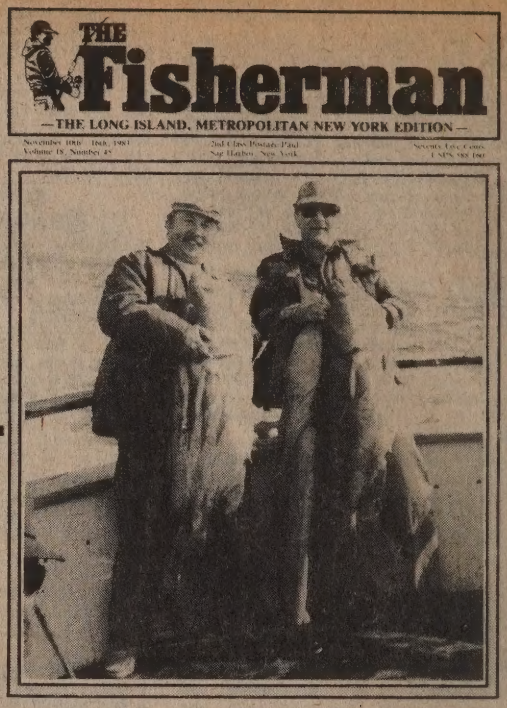

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